

MP&NG has stated that additional gas will be supplied as and when the same is available.

To supplement the gas supply for optimum capacity utilization, gas from Kawas gas plant is being diverted to Jhanor Gandhar gas plant by the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL). The short supply of gas at Kawas gas plant which has a dual firing facility, is being supplemented by firing of naphtha.

Setting up of National Power Development Fund

†1900. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to set up National Power Development Fund with the cess at the rate of 10 paise per unit on power;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and whether opinions of State Governments on that matter have been obtained;
- (c) if so, the reaction of State Governments in this regard; and
- (d) the details of proposed programmes for utilization of this fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) On the advice of the Ministry of Power, the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) had filed a petition before the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), praying for levy of a surcharge of 10(ten) paise per unit on energy available at bus bar, on the electricity generated from its generating stations. The amount collected as a result of levying such surcharge was intended to supplement the budgetary support, for accelerated hydro power development programmes. It was anticipated that it would be possible for NHPC to mobilize Rs. 100 crores per annum at the rate of 10 paise per unit. CERC, in its Tariff order dated 21.12.2000 has fixed a surcharge on every bill for fixed charges (for NHPC on both capacity and energy charges) at the following rates:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[8 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

National Thermal Power Corporation	5%
National Hydro-electric Power Corporation	5%*
Neyveli Lignite Corporation	5%
Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.	10%

The surcharge is intended to specifically meet a portion of the capital expenditure to be incurred by the utility for the purpose of addition of capacity. This is not available for capital expenditure relating to R&M or for replacement of existing capacity. This shall be available only for investment in the business of the electricity supply undertaking for addition of capacity. Operations exclusively within a State shall not be liable for this surcharge. The CERC had invited reactions from beneficiary States before pronouncing its order.

Payments to the Suppliers of energy meters in Manipur

1901. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to reply to Starred Question 172 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th March, 2001 and state:

(a) whether pending payments to the suppliers of energy meters against Loan assistance provided by Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has since been released as promised;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the action taken by REC against Electricity Department of Manipur Government for not clearing the pending payments by 31st March, 2001; and

(d) by when the balance payments due to SSI manufactures will be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) It has been reported by the Power Department, Government of Manipur that an amount of Rs. 25.00 lakhs has been released during July, 2001.

(d) Electricity Department, Government of Manipur has further stated that the balance payment to SSI Manufacturers will be released as and when adequate funds are available.